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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,803	08/03/2001	Andrew M. Ritchie	1561-77	7837

23117 7590 07/15/2004  
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EXAMINER

RONES, CHARLES

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2175

DATE MAILED: 07/15/2004

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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APPLICATION NO/ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER
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**Commissioner for Patents**

The reply filed on December 16, 2003 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because: Applicant had one claim in the application when a preliminary amendment was filed canceling claims 2-20 when no such claims existed. Then applicant attempts to added new claims 21-40. Then applicant cancels claims 1-20. It is unclear what applicant is attempting to do and the record is unclear. Applicant must clear the record and file the appropriate claims and responses. Since the period for reply set forth in the prior Office action has expired, this application will become abandoned unless applicant corrects the deficiency and obtains an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. In no case may an applicant reply outside the SIX (6) MONTH statutory period or obtain an extension for more than FIVE (5) MONTHS beyond the date for reply set forth in an Office action. A fully responsive reply must be timely filed to avoid abandonment of this application.

Charles L. Rones  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit: 2175